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of which upon us we feel throughout the whole of our experience. Dr. Merz tries to show in a very interesting way how, just as the first "things" we learn to distinguish in the outer world are "persons," so this all-embracing reality must be conceived as personal, though freed from the limitations of finite persons. It manifests itself in us and through us, though never falling as a whole within the field of any single human mind.

Dr. Merz does not discuss specific religious doctrines. With the clash between scientific truths concerning human life and the dogmas of the virgin-birth, the resurrection, the ascension, he does not attempt to deal. His problem might be put in language adapted from Kant: How is religion possible? All who are interested in this problem will find his essay very suggestive, and will rise from their study of it with feelings of respect and appreciation.

R. F. ALFRED HOERNLÉ.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT. Chronologically arranged.  
HARLAN CREELMAN and FRANK K. SANDERS. The Macmillan Co.  
1917. Pp. xxxiv, 384. \$2.75.

In publishing this volume Professor Creelman has met a need which teachers of the Old Testament have long felt. We have a number of excellent Introductions to the Old Testament, varying all the way from such a brief handbook as that by G. F. Moore to Driver's standard work. In addition to these two those by McFadyen, Cornill, Kautzsch, Bennett, and Gray may especially be mentioned. But admirable as are these books, and leaving little to be desired in the way of exactness of scholarship, clearness of statement, and soundness and maturity of judgment, they do not meet the needs of the student who is looking for a detailed account of the chronological development of Old Testament literature and for a fair and impartial presentation of the divergent views still current in this field. These needs are met by Professor Creelman's new book.

The method followed by the author is to divide Old Testament history into a number of periods, and then discuss the historical sources for each of these periods and the literature belonging to it. The discussion of each period falls into two parts. First, there is a general introduction to the history and literature of the period, and then there is a detailed chronological outline of the Biblical material relating to it. In the first period, extending down to and including the conquest of Palestine, the structure and sources of the Hexa-

teuch are discussed, after which the Biblical material is analyzed and the question of its historicity dealt with in such a way as to give the student a clear grasp both of the contents of the Hexateuch and its probable historical value. In a similar way the history and literature of the period of the Judges, the United Kingdom, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile, and the Persian and Greek periods are treated. This method necessarily involves more or less of repetition. The historical writings, for instance, are considered both in connection with the period with which they deal and the period from which they emanated. The uncertainty also concerning the date of the Psalms and Proverbs makes it necessary to consider these books in several different periods. But this repetition is no drawback from the pedagogical point of view. It rather enhances the value of the work as a text-book.

The position of the authors is in the main that represented by Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*. It is moderately conservative without being dogmatic in its conclusions. Divergent views are freely recorded, and the reader is furnished with extensive references to current English Old Testament literature. No claim to originality is made. The authors' purpose is "to incorporate and make available the results of the best modern scholarship in such form as, it is hoped, will be helpful to intelligent Old Testament study," and in this aim they have admirably succeeded. The book is a painstaking, thorough, and reliable work, the outcome of many years of labor and experience. In its method of treatment and to some extent in its contents it is a valuable supplement to the other Old Testament Introductions, and as a student's manual it has distinct advantages of its own.

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**HISTORY OF THE SPANISH CONQUEST OF YUCATAN AND OF THE ITZAS.**

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS. Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Vol. VII. Cambridge. 1917. Pp. xv, 206. Plates 1-6.

In the great collection of photographic copies of manuscripts relating to Central America, given to the Peabody Museum by Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, is an account of the missionary Avendaño's journey to Peten in northern Guatemala, at the end of the seventeenth century. Taking this unpublished journal (which had been translated by Mr. Bowditch and Señor Rivera) as a foundation, the author has added data derived from an unpublished account by Cano (in